

EXECUTIVE ORDER

05-03

January 23, 2005

PROCLAMATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS high winds, snow, cold temperatures and blizzard conditions have been in effect throughout the State of Rhode Island beginning Saturday, continuing overnight and are forecast to continue during the daytime Sunday and through the evening hours; and

WHEREAS snow accumulations, high winds and drifting have resulted in dangerous driving conditions, road closures, coastal storm warnings and other potential hazards which pose an imminent threat to public safety as well as damage to public and private property; and

WHEREAS additional time and resources, including state and local assets, will be required to clear roads of snow and storm damage and to allow State and local officials to return the State to normal conditions following the blizzard and to make travel and other activities safe; and

WHEREAS local communities, cities and towns are requesting and will continue to need resources and support from the State's departments and agencies to assist them in dealing with this storm emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, pursuant to the powers contained in Rhode Island General Laws, including but not limited to Chapter 30-15, and by virtue of authority vested in me by my office, do hereby issue this proclamation that there now exists a State of Emergency within the State of Rhode Island; and further:

1. Pursuant to this Order, I hereby order that non-essential State offices and agencies will be closed, and non-essential personnel will not be required to report to work, through 5:00 P.M. EST on Monday, January 24, 2005;

local officials are hereby directed and ordered to similarly close non-essential municipal office, agencies and public schools through 5:00 P.M. EST on Monday, January 24, 2005; and

2. Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 30-2-6, I hereby authorize the adjutant general to order to state active duty Rhode Island National Guard Members to the extent the adjutant general deems necessary after consultation with the Governor to provide emergency assistance to the State of Rhode Island and its citizens; and
3. Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §43-3-28, I hereby determine the existence of an emergency brought about by the disruption and or interruption of transportation services and order that, by this proclamation, commercial carriers of home heating fuel and liquid natural gas are afforded relief from the provisions of 49 CFR 395.3(b) of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations for interstate motor carriers while providing liquid natural gas and home heating fuels to customers in Rhode Island during a period of ten (10) days from the issuance of this proclamation of emergency; and
4. Public transportation, including services of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) will be curtailed and limited to the so-called RIDE program and other emergency transportation vehicles during the pendency of this Order; and
5. Pursuant to emergency powers granted by Rhode Island General Laws, and any other applicable provisions of state or federal law, I shall from time to time issue additional recommendations, directions and orders as circumstances require, either written or verbal.

While this proclamation of State Emergency does not presently constitute a complete travel ban, closure of the Rhode Island airports or formal bank holiday pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 19-13-5 (unless explicitly incorporated in a subsequent Order), private businesses and citizens are encouraged to limit non-essential activities and travel in order to allow state and local officials to respond to and recover from the storm.

This proclamation of State of Emergency is effective as of 9:00 A.M. Eastern Standard time and shall remain in effect until 5:00 P.M. EST on Monday, January 24, 2005, unless extended by me. In the event the emergency continues to exist, in my judgment and discretion, this State of Emergency shall remain in effect for such additional time as I may order from time to time.

So Ordered:

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Donald L. Carcieri

Dated: January 23, 2005